

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 27, 2002. Typographical errors in the specification and drawings detected during this review are being corrected. A letter to the Official Draftsperson accompanies this Amendment. New Claims 6 and 7 are being presented with this application. We enclose our check for the additional fee required by this Amendment. Claims 1 through 7 are currently active in this case. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the acknowledgement of the Office's receipt of the certified copy of the Priority Document.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because certain reference numerals were missing from Figure 1. The accompanying Letter to the Draftsman indicates the proposed changes to Figure 1 to add the missing reference numerals. Applicants will submit corrected drawings upon the Examiner's approval of the proposed changes.

The Examiner has also objected to the Figures 1, 6, 9, 15, 17B, 18B, and 19A of the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) because they include certain reference numerals not mentioned in the specification. Applicants have accordingly amended the specification to add the reference numerals found on the drawings. No new matter has been added, as the material was already present in the drawings and specification. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings are requested.

SPECIFICATION

The disclosure has been objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.52(b)(6) because it lacks paragraph numbers. This objection is respectfully traversed.

37 C.F.R. § 1.52(b)(6) provides that "the paragraphs of the specification, ..., *may* [emphasis added] be numbered at the time the application is filed," This requirement of 37 C.F.R. § 1.52(b)(6) is clearly permissive, not mandatory, and may not properly form the basis of an objection to the specification. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.52(b)(7).

The specification has been objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as not being written in "full, clear, concise, and exact terms." Applicants have amended the specification at page 1, paragraph 3, the last sentence of page 2, and the last line of page 2, per the Examiner's request. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 to 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by the Richardson et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,278,996 B1 [hereinafter "Richardson"]. Claims 1, 4, and 5 have been amended to make explicit that which was previously implicit. Reconsideration is requested.

Richardson discloses a system and method for message processing and response. The system has a set of knowledge bases with linked domain specific words, phrases, and regular expressions relating to the domain of the writer and the domain of the respondent. The writer's domain is represented by special purpose lexicons linked to representations of typical intents. The typical intents are linked to a domain knowledge base of typical and appropriate respondent actions. Sets of extracted keywords and concepts are matched against the sets of stored, pre-classified keywords and concepts, producing a list of intents. The intents and other extracted features are then mapped to appropriate actions as defined by the system operator. The actions

use the common linked domain knowledge terms to formulate a textual reply that is tailored to and answering the intent of writer of the input message.

With reference to amended independent Claims 1, 4, and 5, and new Claims 6 and 7, Richardson neither suggests nor discloses a system that requires a user to select the content of the messages to which a reply will be made, and the reply that will be sent. In Richardson, the reply is automatically generated in response to keywords appearing in the incoming message, and the user has no input.

With reference to new Claims 6 and 7, Richardson neither suggests nor discloses a system that displays incoming and outgoing messages on a screen to a user. Richardson merely stores the text of the incoming message in memory. As a result, Richardson cannot permit a user to select the content of the messages to which a reply will be made, and the reply that will be sent.

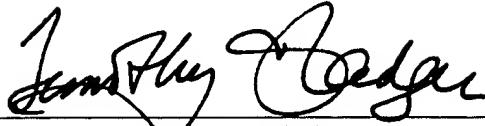
Accordingly, Claims 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are believed patentably distinguishable over the cited reference, and their allowance is requested.

Claims 2 and 3 depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1. For the reasons advanced above with respect to Claim 1, these claims are also believe allowable, and such action is requested.

In view of the above discussion and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Applicants also enclose a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims and specification by the current amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Carter Pledger", written over a horizontal line.

June 24, 2002
Date

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Words to be added are indicated by underscore, while words to be deleted are indicated by [brackets].

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph beginning at line 12 of page 1 and ending at line 5 of page 2 has been amended as follows:

This electronic mail system includes means to put a mark code on each of the answer-requesting items in a text of electronic mail to be transmitted and add a list of [answer candidates,] possible answers or candidates. A means [to add] adds control information for the mark code and the candidate-answer list to control information of the mail to be transmitted [,]. A means [to select] selects a reply message from the [candidate] possible answers when preparing a reply mail. A [and] means [to] automatically [generate] generates a reply mail from the received mail and a selected answer message. In this system, [a user-] the sender of [an] electronic mail can prepare and send the electronic mail by preparing control information, mark codes and lists of [candidate] possible answers, and [a user-receiver] the recipient of the transmitted electronic mail, prepared [by the same] in the manner as [mentioned] described above is [requested] required only [selecting] to select one of the [candidate-] possible answers [of] from each list when preparing a reply to the received mail. The system can automatically generate a reply letter by [coupling] associating the received mail items with the answers selected by the user and [transmit the generated] transmitting the associated reply.

The paragraph beginning at line 26 of page 2 has been amended as follows:

Furthermore, the [user-receiver] recipient cannot [choice] choose a different

The paragraph beginning at line 11 of page 10 has been amended as follows:

An ROM (Read Only Memory) 10 has a font-information area 101 storing character fonts to be displayed on the LCD 2a, a program area 102 storing a program describing actions of the central control portion 8, a dictionary area 103 for converting signals to characters, a coordinates storage area 104 storing conversion information for converting coordinate data detected by the tablet control portion 4 to coordinate corresponding to a display position.

Before the paragraph beginning at line 22 on page 14, insert the following paragraph:

When a RETURN button 22 is detected at the touched position, the current screen is replaced by a preceding screen displayed just before the current image.

Before the paragraph beginning at line 23 on page 15, insert the following paragraph:

When a RETURN button 262 is detected at the touched position, the current screen is replaced by a preceding screen displayed just before the current image.

Before the paragraph beginning at line 26 on page 17, insert the following paragraph:

When a RETURN button 22 is detected at the touched position, the current screen is replaced by a preceding screen displayed just before the current image.

Replace the paragraph beginning at line 16 on page 22 with the following new paragraph:

When a desired answer example was selected from the list 24 (Step S24), the selected character strings are given a citation mark (Step S25) and stored in a citation character-string buffer 116 (Step S26) and the selected answer is stored in an answer character-string buffer 117 (Step S27). A reply data preparing screen 25 as shown in Fig. 8 is then opened on the received-mail screen (Step S28) and the character strings stored in the buffer 116 are displayed as cited sentences on the screen 25 (Step S29) and the character string stored in the buffer 117 is also

displayed as an answer thereon (Step S30). The procedure is held in waiting state until a new touch

Replace the paragraph beginning at line 16 on page 24 with the following new paragraph:

When the contents part of the screen was touched with the pen, the procedure proceeds to Step S48 whereat the contents is input and edited. When the title part of the screen was touched with the pen, the procedure proceeds to Step S49 whereat the title is input and edited. Then, the procedure returns to Step S45.

Replace the paragraph beginning at line 24 on page 24 and concluding at line 6 on page 25 with the following new paragraph:

The user touches a REGISTER button 18 on the electronic-mail-application menu screen, thereby an answer-example registering screen is displayed on the display (Step S53) portion of the device (Step S15). Candidate answer-examples are read from a candidate answer memory 115 of the RAM 11 and displayed in form of an answer example list 27 as shown in Fig. 12 (Step S54). The device then remains in the waiting state until the user touches with a pen a desired area of the input/output portion 2 of the device.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend Claims 1, 4 and 5 as follows:

1. (Amended) An information processing device for transmitting and receiving electronic mail over a transmission line, comprising:

a memory means for storing answer examples for a reply mail;

a contents selecting means for presenting a contents of received mail and requiring a user to pick [picking] therefrom contents necessary for preparing a reply to the received mail;

an answer message selecting means for requiring a user to select [selecting] any of the answer examples stored by the memory means; and

a reply-mail preparing means for preparing a reply mail by coupling the contents selected by the contents selecting means with answer examples selected by the answer example selecting means.

4. (Amended) A storage medium carrying a program readable by a computer, which program causes the computer to execute the steps of:

requiring a user to select [storing] necessary contents picked from received mail and storing the contents into a reply contents storage means;

presenting candidate answer examples previously stored in a candidate answer storage means and requiring the user to select one of the candidate answer examples;

storing [any one] the selected [from the presented] candidate [answers] answer into an answer storage means; and

preparing reply mail by coupling the contents stored in the reply contents storage means with the answer examples stored in the answer storage means and storing the prepared reply mail in a reply mail storage means.

5. (Amended) A storage medium carrying a program readable by a computer, which program causes the computer to execute the steps of:

requiring a user to select [storing] necessary contents picked from received mail and storing the contents into a reply contents storage means;

presenting candidate answer examples previously stored in a candidate answer storage means and requiring said user to select one of said candidate answer examples;

storing [any one] the selected [from the presented] candidate [answers] answer into an answer storage means;

preparing reply mail by coupling the contents stored in the reply contents storage means with a contents stored in the answer storage means and storing the prepared reply mail in a reply mail storage means; and

setting a sender of the received mail as an addressee of the reply mail and a receiver of the received mail as an addresser of the reply mail.

Kindly add the following new Claims 6 and 7:

6. (New) A storage medium carrying a program readable by a computer, which program causes the computer to execute the steps of:

displaying received mail to a user on a screen;

requiring the user to select the necessary contents from the received mail and storing the contents into a reply contents storage means;

presenting candidate answer examples previously stored in a candidate answer storage means on said screen and requiring the user to select one of the candidate answer examples as a selected candidate answer;

storing the selected candidate answer into an answer storage means; and

preparing a reply mail by associating the contents stored in the reply contents storage means with the answer examples stored in the answer storage means and storing the prepared reply mail in a reply mail storage means.

7. (New) An information processing device for transmitting and receiving electronic mail over a transmission line, comprising:

a screen for displaying electronic mail to a user;

a memory means for storing answer examples for a reply mail;

a contents selecting means for displaying the contents of received mail on said screen and requiring a user to pick therefrom the contents necessary for preparing a reply to the received mail;

an answer message selecting means for requiring the user to select any of the answer examples stored by the memory means as displayed on said screen; and

a reply-mail preparing means for preparing a reply mail for display on said screen by associating the contents selected by the contents selecting means with answer examples selected by the answer example selecting means.